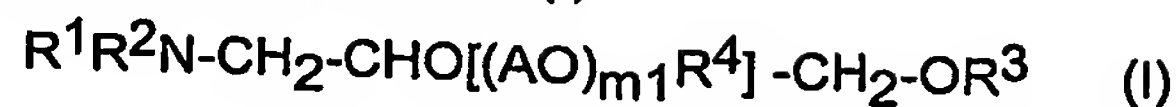


Claims:

1 A compound of the formula (I):



where

- 5 R^1 is an alkoxylated polyhydroxy hydrocarbyl group; or
 R^2 is independently a group as defined for R^1 ; hydrocarbyl, particularly alkyl; alkoxyalkyl; optionally end-capped alkoxylated hydroxyalkyl; or
 R^2 is a group of the formula: $-CH_2-CHO[(AO)_{m1}R^4]-CH_2-OR^3$ where AO , $m1$, R^4 and R^3 are each independently as defined below;

10 R^3 is hydrocarbyl, usually C_6 to C_{30} , particularly C_8 to C_{30} , more particularly C_{10} to C_{20} , especially alkyl, alkenyl, alkaryl, aryl or aralkyl;

each AO is independently an alkyleneoxy group, particularly a C_2 to C_4 alkyleneoxy group, especially a C_2 or C_3 alkyleneoxy group, or a mixture of C_2 and C_3 alkyleneoxy groups;

$m1$ is from 0 to 50, but usually at least 0.1, and desirably from 0.5 to 20; and

15 R^4 is hydrogen, or alkyl;

such that the average total number of alkyleneoxy groups in the molecule is at least 3.

2 An alkoxylated compound of the formula (II)

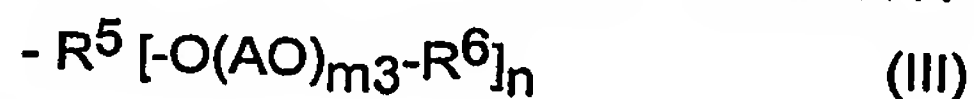


where

- 20 R^{1a} is a polyhydroxy hydrocarbyl group;
 R^{2a} is independently a group as defined for R^{1a} , or is hydrocarbyl, particularly alkyl or alkoxyalkyl or hydroxyalkyl, or is a group of the formula: $-CH_2-CHOH-CH_2-OR^3$ where R^3 is hydrocarbyl,

in which the average total number of alkyleneoxy groups in the molecule is at least 3.

25 3 A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein R^1 is a group of the formula (III):



where

- R^5 is the residue of a hydrocarbyl group;
 R^6 is hydrogen, or alkyl;
 30 AO is an alkyleneoxy group;
 $m3$ is an average value of from 1 to 20; and
 n is from 3 to 10.

4 A compound as claimed in claim 3 wherein R^5 is the residue (notionally obtained by removing hydroxyl groups from the parent group) of a polyhydroxy alkyl group having a
 35 linear C_4 to C_7 chain.

5 A compound as claimed in either claim 3 or claim 4 wherein n is from 3 to 6

- 6 A compound as claimed in any one of claims 1 or 2 to 4 wherein R^2 is an alkyl group and R^3 is a C_{10} to C_{30} alkyl, alkenyl, alkaryl, aryl or aralkyl group.
- 7 A compound as claimed in any one of claims 1 or 2 to 5 wherein the alkyleneoxy group(s) AO is(are) ethyleneoxy, propyleneoxy or mixtures of ethyleneoxy and propyleneoxy groups.
- 5 8 A compound as claimed in claim 6 wherein the total number of alkyleneoxy groups in the compound of the formula (I) is from 5 to 30.
- 9 An agrochemical composition including as adjuvant a compound of the formula (I) as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 8.
- 10 10 A composition as claimed in claims 9 wherein the agrochemically active compound is one or more plant growth regulators, herbicides, and/or pesticides, for example insecticides, fungicides, acaricides, nematocides, miticides, rodenticides, bactericides, molluscicides and/or bird repellants.
- 11 A composition as claimed in claim 9 wherein the agrochemically active compound is or includes at least one water soluble herbicide.
- 15 12 A composition as claimed in claim 10 wherein the water soluble herbicide is or includes at least one phosphonomethyl glycine; at least one phosphinyl amino acid; and/or at least one bipyridinium compound.
- 13 A composition as claimed in any one of claims 9 to 12 which additionally includes at least one further surfactant.
- 20 14 A composition as claimed in claim 13 which additionally includes at least one alkylpolysaccharide surfactant.
- 15 A method of treating vegetation by applying to plants and/or soil a composition as claimed in any one of claims 9 to 14.
- 25 16 A method of killing or inhibiting vegetation by applying a formulation as claimed in any one of claims 9 to 14 which includes one or more growth regulators and/or herbicides and at least one compound of the general formula (I) as defined in any one of claims 1 to 6 as an adjuvant.
- 30 17 A method of killing plant pests by applying a formulation as claimed in any one of claims 9 to 14 which includes one or more pesticides, fungicides or acaricides, and at least one compound of the general formula (I) as defined in any one of claims 1 to 6 as an adjuvant.